

# **Funding Proposal Executive Summary**

## **Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Project**

### **Background**

TCDD includes multiple objectives in its 2017-2021 state plan to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training to support individuals in creating systems change. TCDD received public input prior to the development of the FY 2017 – 21 State Plan suggesting that TCDD award funding to a local self-advocacy group to implement a leadership and advocacy training. TCDD has awarded many similar grants, including to a statewide self-advocacy group. However, very few local self-advocacy groups have received funding to implement a project.

### **State Plan Goal**

**Goal 3:** Increase the access that individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities have to information, training, and support to advocate for themselves and/or to collaborate with allies to impact public policy, service systems and community supports.

**Objective 3.1:** Support at least nine leadership development and advocacy skills training programs for people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities and allies by 9/30/21.

Three of the four planned Leadership Development and Advocacy projects were awarded funding. The following three organizations were each awarded \$75,000 per year, for up to three years, and are in their first year:

- Easter Seals Central Texas (individuals with developmental disabilities)
- Family to Family (individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and community members)
- Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center (individuals with developmental disabilities and family members)

Additionally, three Youth Leadership projects have been approved for funding and will begin in the summer of 2017:

- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. (ages 16-22; also employment-related)
- Mounting Horizons (ages 14-22)
- SAFE Alliance (18-22; also incorporates training to develop meaningful relationships)

Additionally, Objective 3.2 supports people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities. TCDD is currently providing funding to Texas Advocates, Texas' statewide self-advocacy organization, to address this objective.

### **Expected Outcome**

One local self-advocacy group will provide leadership development and advocacy skills training for at least 100 people each year, on average, and document that:

- At least 80% of trainees demonstrate perceived improvement in their knowledge and ability to advocate for themselves and others
- At least 10% of trainees have continued involvement in leadership roles or public advocacy after the end of the project

## **Project Description**

One project will provide leadership development and advocacy skills training using curriculum approved by TCDD. Project staff will determine the curriculum to be used and how training will be provided. Training must include:

- History and philosophy of the disability rights movement;
- Principles of self-determination;
- Strategies to find and access necessary services and supports;
- Activities to develop self-advocacy skills; and
- Activities to promote interaction between participants and peer support.

For this project, the applicants are limited to local self-advocacy groups and organizations. Priority will be given to those groups and organizations located in rural and or underserved areas of the State. Training participants may include individuals with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and other interested community members who do not fall into either of these categories. Priority shall be given to support the participation of individuals with developmental disabilities; spouses or partners of individuals with developmental disabilities; and other family members of adults with developmental disabilities. Space permitting, other community members may attend training.

Organizations implementing the training may charge a reasonable fee for training or for Continuing Education Units, but must ensure that any person with a developmental disability and family member of a person with a developmental disability will be able to participate, regardless of ability or inability to pay. TCDD will have final approval of any fee structure and procedure.

All organizations must have procedures in place to obtain contact information (including e-mail addresses) from participants and to inform participants that their contact information will be forwarded to TCDD so that TCDD may provide information related to advocacy opportunities to advocates. Grantees should forward to TCDD names of individuals who are interested in ongoing advocacy, advanced training or serving on a board or committee.

## **Proposed Funding Amount**

Up to \$75,000 for one project, per year, for up to five years. Additional funding may be made available to provide reasonable accommodations to Project Directors or Project Coordinators who have a developmental disability if accommodations are necessary and exceed the amount the organization can afford. Additional funding must be based on level of need and may not exceed \$25,000 per project.

## **Proposed Duration**

Up to five years

## **Considerations**

None